

## LITERARY ITEMS.

George Lillie Clark, LL.D., Professor of History and English Literature in Queen's College, Belfast, died on the 25th of June, at the age of 67. He was born in Fife in 1799, and was the son of a schoolmaster. In 1821 he came to London, and got employment under Mr. Charles Knight and the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge. He wrote the "Pursuit of Knowledge under Difficulties," for the Library of Entertaining Knowledge; the "Pictorial History of England," "Sketches of Literature and Learning in England from the Norman Conquest to the Accession of Elizabeth," "History of British Commerce," "Spenner and his Poetry," "The English of Shakespeare," and "The Romance of the Poet." He has been Professor in Queen's College, Belfast, since 1859. His last important work was a "History of the English Language and Literature." A son of Prof. Clark's married Mrs. Mulock.

The *London Review*, in a not very favorable notice of Prof. Agassiz's lectures on "The Structure of Animal Life," gravely informs its readers that they were "read before an American musical academy." This blunder is accounted for by the statement on the title page of the book that they were delivered "at the Brooklyn Academy of Music."

A curious poem called "The World's Epitaph," by an anonymous hand, has just been printed for private circulation in London. The writer, whose ambition has been to avoid the errors of the common run of poets, and produce something worthy of being listened to, gives among other things an allegory in which Christ, as a travelling tinker, is represented going about the world, crying "Old souls to mend!" Here are two of the stanzas:

"Still on my way the tinker wends,  
That's far between and few;  
And many a load he bears as we  
Once set to work and fairly hied,  
His dull old bairn may move inspired.

"His task is steady, slow, and sure:  
He plods along with quiet, howl,  
With honest hands, like broken doors,  
As creaking marten doors a frost,  
And tells all the job he is about,

The second volume of the Emperor's "Life of Caesar" has not only revived the old controversy as to the place of the Roman general's landing in Britain, but has even called out a historical fire-breaker named Sartoris, who has written a book on the bold inquiry whether Caesar ever crossed the channel at all.

A telegram from Rome says that the Congregation of the Index has condemned "Les Apôtres," by M. Rean, "Le Catholiques Romain en Russie," by M. Tolstoy, "La Bible et l'Humanité," by Michelot, and "L'Histoire de la Littérature Anglaise," by Taine.

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